

MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
FIRE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT
AUGUST 2000

OFFICE OF THE FIRE ADMINISTRATOR

Commission Office

At the August 10, 2000 meeting of the Fire and Rescue Commission, the following items were discussed:

- The replacement of Bethesda FD Truck 6 was moved up to FY01 and the replacement of Bethesda FD Aerial Tower 20 was delayed to FY02.
- The termination of boat service from Burtonsville Station 15 was approved.
- The disposal of two existing boats at the Glen Echo VFD was approved. A small jon boat will be procured for the GEVFD.
- Additional support vehicles were approved to be retained in the MCFRS fleet for the Hyattstown and Kensington VFDs.
- The Criminal Background Checks of Volunteer Applicants policy was approved.
- The FRC tabled action to send the revised Code of Ethics and Personal Conduct regulation to the County Register for 30 days.
- The Commission approved revisions to the LOSAP program and authorized revisions to two regulations and amendments to chapter 21 of the County Code to be submitted to the County Executive.
- The Burtonsville VFD received approval to dispose of old Fire Station 15 subject to concurrence by the CAO.
- The Commission was briefed on progress to create a new Memorandum of Understanding with Montgomery County Public Schools for the High School Fire Science Program.

Research and Planning

Emergency Management

Training & Exercises – The Disaster Command System for Bio-Terrorism Events was overbooked for September 27th, and a second class has been scheduled for Sunday, October 29th. Meetings continue with hospitals, law enforcement, county agencies, City of Gaithersburg, schools, and others to finalize scenario, objectives, and planning elements for the November 16th Bio-Terrorism exercise. The all day EOC exercise will include a separate Unified Command Post module with state and federal agencies. OEM received a \$10,000 Office of Justice Program grant to support this exercise.

Community Education – Kathleen Henning attended a federal workshop at the National Fire Academy on Community and Family Education. The focus of the conference was primarily on school violence and partnerships with non-governmental agencies. FEMA officials advised that the National Fire Protection Association *Risk Watch* program will be expanded with federal funding to include modules on disaster preparedness and school safety/neighborhood watch programs. Red Cross has just released a new disaster preparedness program called *Masters of Disaster* which meets national teaching certification standards for science, language arts, math, and reading. Meetings are planned with Red

Cross and school officials and \$20,000 in funding support has been promised by Red Cross to start a pilot program in Montgomery County.

Terrorism Preparedness – Office of Emergency Management, Health, law enforcement agencies, fire and rescue, and others have completed the State Risk Assessment survey on targets of terrorism and capabilities to respond (equipment lists, training, etc.) Efforts are now underway to complete the State Vulnerability Assessment.

Corporate Development Services:

Automation Section

Established a computer repair office for the Information Systems Support Specialist in Room 109 of the Council Office Building.

Completed installation of T-1 line in the Operations Bureau Shift Chief's Office at Fire Station 20.

Continued to work with vendor on conversion of Operations Bureau scheduling database.

Completed applicant interviews for the Automated Systems Manager I position.

Prepared a position description for new GIS position.

Responded to 100 plus requests for automation assistance from various components of the fire and rescue services.

Responded to 15 requests for statistical data and information from various components of the fire and rescue services and the public.

Distributed and installed network computers to Code Enforcement personnel and provided necessary training.

Distributed and installed Infokeys and new computers to all DFRS District offices and commenced training of appropriate Operations Bureau personnel.

Completed distribution and installation of EMBRS workstations to the remaining DFRS District offices.

Disseminated information on training needs for the Mobile Data Project and training opportunities that are available through the Office of Human Resources to career and volunteer personnel.

Fleet and Facilities Section

In conjunction with the Apparatus Specifications Committee, specifications are in various stages of development for midship-mount aerial towers, tractor-drawn aerial trucks, and cabover pumpers.

The vehicle maintenance record management study was started, with a orientation meeting for LFRD leadership and fleet maintenance personnel, as well as a more in-depth meeting with specifically focused on fleet maintenance

operations.

Served as staff to the Apparatus Specifications Committee and the Fire and Rescue Commission's Finance, Technology, and Planning Committee's Apparatus and Facilities Subcommittee.

Continued activities related to the planning, design, and construction of Takoma Park fire station #2.

Meet with the design-build contractor that has been awarded the Collapse Rescue Team building project. It is expected that this project will be completed June 1, 2001.

Issued Nextel wireless phones to the DFRS/BLSS/Code Enforcement for the purpose of easing communications between assigned personnel, other County agencies, contractors, and other interested parties.

Grants Management Section

Received and processed four new grants: (1) Terrorism Consequence - \$22,000; (2) Flood Mitigation - \$5,000; (3) Emergency Management - \$3,000; and, (4) Terrorism Consequence Exercise - \$12,000

Established a new Trust and Agency for the Montgomery County Urban Search and Rescue (MD TF1) Family Support Network.

Continued to provide extensive staff support on the Internal Affairs/Safety Office and Fire & Explosives Investigations relocations and the 12th Floor, EOB Renovation project.

Property Section

Coordinated session at Property Section for the issuing of uniform apparel for personnel in Recruit Class #18. Scheduled sessions at the PSTA in September for the fitting of protective clothing and dress uniforms.

Resolved problem with contractor regarding the imprinting of uniform golf shirts. Took delivery of uniform golf shirts for the IAFF Local 1664 contract requirement and announced availability to bargaining unit employees (along with new vision protection) by information bulletin.

Recommended to the Fire Administrator the hiring of an applicant for the vacant Supply Clerk II position.

Coordinated a series of enhancement to the alpha-numeric paging program, including the scheduling of a number of sessions for personnel to obtain new pagers. This involved pagers issued by the MCFRS.

Prepared donations of surplus uniform apparel and protective clothing for the city of Cap-Haitien, Haiti, and for the city of St. Petersburg, Russia. The St. Petersburg donation was delivered to fire department officials by MFF Gary Bishop (23/B).

Processed 357 property transactions during the month of August 2000.

DIVISION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

- A new RFP is being prepared for the LOSAP proposal. The Scope of Work is being reviewed by members of the Human Resources, Safety and Training Committee.
- Attended a meeting with the Fire Administrator and K. Stewart regarding the annual Volunteer Awards Ceremony.
- Attended meetings regarding safety issues and personnel changes (the latter with R. Kidd and the Fire Administrator).
- Participated in the FRC retreat.
- Attended another meeting regarding apparatus purchased with non-tax funds.
- Attended a meeting with the CAO to brief him on the current EMG status.
- Attended a meeting with the System Safety Committee.
- Met with representatives from the Metro system regarding water flow problems that they are having (the first of two meetings).
- Visited the County Fair on several occasions to see the fire and rescue portion and discuss several issues.
- Assumed the role of Acting Fire Administrator for an eight-day period.
- Assisted with a Unit Citation at Sta. 29.
- Attended a meeting with the Metro Committee regarding training courses.
- Met with the Fire Administrator and the heads of all our resource groups, at the PSTA.
- Assisted with the EMBRS solution for the problems between the B-CCRS and the County – at a meeting at that station with the Fire Administrator and both staffs.
- Visited Dallas, TX for the IAFC – Fire-Rescue International Convention
- Represented the DVFRS at the funeral services of Past President Victor Trilling, GEFD.
- Attended the Fire Board, FRC, Operations Committee, Human Resources, Safety and Training Committee meetings. Was out of town for the others.
- Mediated personal, personnel and/or sensitive issues with various LFRDs.

DIVISION OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

BUREAU OF OPERATIONS

Safety

A/C McGary was the guest speaker at a recent National Institute of Standards and Technology Fire Research Seminar. His topic was "Challenges Facing Today's Fire Service" which covered safety related issues.

Prepared and delivered Inside DFRS segments on entering and exiting Freightliner engines and properly parking Freightliner ambulances. Several firefighters have been injured while exiting the engines and there have been two ambulance roll-away incidents.

Prepared and distributed a Standardized Training Program presentation on Patient Handling. This included a video developed by Volunteer Firemen's Insurance Service (VFIS) and a training guide prepared by the DFRS safety section.

Providing assistance to VFIS in the development of a training video on apparatus preventative maintenance inspections.

Specialty Teams

Collapse Rescue/Urban Search and Rescue:

Swiftwater Rescue Team

BUREAU OF OPERATIONS

Administration

Communications

The Continued Dispatch Education (CDE) Training subject for the month of August was Customer Service. All personnel, including cross-trained individuals, completed the CDE for the month.

In-house training continues on the JPS-2000. Formal training, on the JPS 2000 is scheduled with Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria Fire Departments in mid-September.

Maureen Morello attended the APCO conference in Boston, MA.

MFR Hanson has been transferred to Station 21 and MFR Branzell has been transferred into ECC.

DTC Stan Tetlow retired on August 16th and Captain Patullo was promoted to the

District Chief Assignment in ECC.

Captain Leslie Cook transferred into ECC from Station 8.

Personnel in ECC are currently working on updating the Emergency Notification Book, the HP file and the Railroad, FAA and METRO Identification Books.

ECC received 9,456 9-1-1 calls plus, answered 1,261 9-1-1 over flow calls plus, 20,163 Administrative calls; totaling 30,880 calls with 10 tapes requested for the month.

Training

Spring 2000 In-Service Training "Essentials of Safety and Survival Techniques" which began on May 1st will end the week of September 22nd.

Training Academy Staff continues working with DIST, Lucent Technologies and PSTA Distance Learning Work Group on the View Station Video Conferencing System.

Distance learning site has been added to the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service web site (www.co.mo.md.us/dfrs/psta/stp).

A new smart maze was installed in the Fire/Rescue Training Academy Burn Building. Many new innovative concepts applied to the design.

The last "Unified Command" training classes sponsored by Training Academy Staff and Montgomery County Police will be held September 29th.

The new furniture ordered to replace the old Training Academy furniture should be delivered the last week of September.

Capt. Curtis Poole transferred to Station #8 and Capt. Mike Nelson is the new Training Course Coordinator.

Four career and one volunteer EMT-Paramedic were awarded Paramedic status in August.

BUREAU OF LIFE SAFETY SERVICES

Community Education Safety Section

Fire Code Enforcement

The Section was able to get Montgomery County Public Schools opened and inspected with no major incidents.

Fire and Explosive Investigation

